

153

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
BANKING, HOUSING,
AND URBAN AFFAIRS
BUDGET
ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS

February 19, 2016

Received & Inspected
FEB 29 2016
FCC Mail Room

Chairman Tom Wheeler
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Status Inquiry for Southern Oregon University, Ashland, OR; Assignment BAL-20130514ACN

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

I am writing, on behalf of Southern Oregon University (SOU), to request your help in resolving an urgent matter that has been pending at the Commission for almost three years.

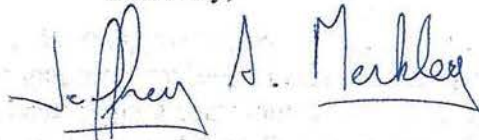
In 2013, the JPR Foundation agreed to donate a number of noncommercial broadcast stations to the State of Oregon, under the stewardship of SOU. That proposed assignment was submitted to the FCC for approval, in May 2013, and remains pending. The Assignment is under the name KJPR, Shasta Lake City, CA. File No. BAL-20130514ACN.

SOU reports that it has actively cooperated with the FCC staff, in clarifying a number of issues while this assignment application has been pending, and in making various requested amendments. During the past year, SOU's communications counsel has received numerous assurances from the FCC staff that the Assignment was ready to be approved by the FCC staff. Nevertheless, the long awaited approval has not been forthcoming.

This delay of almost three years has become an increasing hardship which is costly and disruptive to SOU. That is why your assistance is being requested today. I would appreciate your help in finding out when SOU might expect approval of this pending assignment. If there are any further issues which need resolution with the FCC staff, SOU is prepared to cooperate fully and promptly, but your assistance is needed to bring this matter to a conclusion. Thank you for your help in moving this application forward.

Please let me know if you need any further information or background about this matter.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

April 15, 2016

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
United States Senate
313 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Merkley:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending transfer of noncommercial broadcast stations from JPR Foundation to Southern Oregon University (SOU). Your views are very important and I appreciate you bringing this issue to my attention.

Let me assure you that Commission staff is actively reviewing this application, and we hope to conclude our review as soon as possible. As part of our review, staff in the Commission's Media Bureau requested required information that was missing from SOU's original assignment application. Staff recently received the last such amendment providing this missing information and is now reviewing the application. This missing information was in large part the reason why this matter has remained pending.

In addition, please note that the application is subject to an objection filed by Ronald Kramer on July 8, 2013. Commission staff must dispense with all objections before moving toward a final resolution. Now that SOU has filed all of the requested amendments to the assignment application, Commission staff is in a position to review the merits of this objection and will do so promptly. While I cannot provide a timeline for when this matter will be resolved, I can assure you it is being actively handled and we will bring this to a resolution as quickly as we can.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Tom Wheeler", is written over a horizontal line.

Tom Wheeler